

## REMARKS

Regarding the Examiner's reference to the submission of an Information Disclosure statement, it is believed that the U.S. Patents cited by the applicant in the Background portion of the application are no more relevant than the art cited by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings on the ground that the reference numerals 700 and 800 are both used to designate the testing tool.

It is respectfully submitted that the testing tool is only referred to by numeral 800 in the drawings and that the error is in the specification, not the drawings. The correction has been made in the paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because the reference numeral 412 is not mentioned in the specification. A correction has been made on page 10 of the specification to include this reference numeral.

The disclosure is objected to for certain typographical errors on page 13. These errors have been corrected.

The Examiner has objected to the term "plurality of second flanges in claim 9. Claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. Claims 5 and 6 are indicated as allowable.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner objects to the term "cylinder" in claim 7 and suggests that the proper term should be "a partially open loop".

It is respectfully submitted that the term "slotted cylinder" is more descriptive than "partially open loop". When the structure is crimped, the result is a cylinder having a seam

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Mitchell.

It is believed that the amendment to claim 1 renders it and claims 2, 7, and 8 allowable over Mitchell. With regard to claim 10, there is no suggestion in Mitchell that the troughs 20, 20a, 20b, 20c should be crimped. Whether they are crimpable or not cannot be known from Mitchell's disclosure. However, it is

certain that Mitchell does not teach crimping. Therefore, Mitchell cannot anticipate claim 10 nor can Mitchell render claim 10 obvious.

Claims 1-4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Fahnestock.

With regard to claims 1-4 and 9, it is respectfully submitted that Fahnestock does not teach "an apparatus for suspending a fixture". Fahnestock discloses a binding post for an electrical wire. For this reason alone, Fahnestock does not anticipate claim 1. Moreover, the amendment to claim 1 makes it absolutely clear that the structure claimed in claim 1 is neither anticipated nor suggested by Fahnestock.

With regard to claim 4, although Fahnestock refers to element 14 as a tongue, it does not define a wire receiving hole as does the claimed tongue which is intended to read on 308 of Figure 7. The Examiner essentially admits that this is the case when he states that the "tongue cooperates with the portions (12 and 13) to define a wire receiving hole." Furthermore, even when cooperating with elements 12 and 13 it cannot be seen how element 14 defines a hole as that term is used in claim 4.

Claims 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Mitchell.

As argued above, Mitchell does not suggest the method of claim 10. As claims 11-13 depend from claim 10, Mitchell cannot suggest these claims either.

Claims 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Mitchell in view of Plyter.

The Examiner has assumed many of the features of claim 14 without supplying a teaching reference. Moreover, the Examiner's stated incentive for combining the references is not found in the prior art.

The Examiner states that Plyter shows a "testing tool with a crimp-type connector". This is not true and even if it were true, a "crimp-type connector" is not a "crimping tool" as that term is normally understood and as it is used in the instant application. Plyter discloses a "hand tool for pull testing of crimp type terminal pins attached to electrical cables." The tool has nothing to do with crimping.

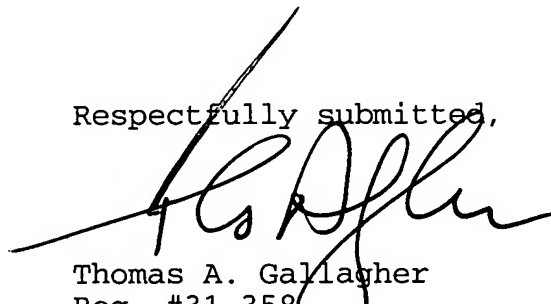
The Examiner further states that it would have been obvious to combine Plyter with Mitchell "for the purpose of testing the

elongated wires." This incentive is faulty for several reasons. The most apparent reason is that Mitchell does not disclose or suggest elongated wires. Therefore there would be no need to test elongated wires.

Lastly, the Examiner never really addresses the "plurality of angle bracket" and "plurality of pre-cut wires" in claim 14; nor does the Examiner show any incentive for providing these elements in conjunction with Mitchell or Plyter.

In light of all of the above, it is submitted that all of the claims are in order for allowance, and prompt allowance is earnestly requested. Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record so that the case may proceed expeditiously to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas A. Gallagher  
Reg. #31,358  
Attorney for Applicant

65 Woods End Road  
Stamford, CT 06905  
(203) 329-9898

June 13, 2003